

Hamilton Field, Frame Building Type C  
(Facility Nos. 510, 511, 512, 520, 521, 525)  
Hospital Drive between Escolta Avenue  
and North Oakwood Drive  
Novato  
Marin County  
California

HABS No. CA-2398-BC

HABS  
CAL  
21-NOVA,  
IBC-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
San Francisco, California

**HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY**  
**HAMILTON FIELD**  
**Frame Building Type C**  
**(Facility Nos. 510, 511, 512, 520, 521, 525)**

HABS  
CAL  
21-NOVA,  
IBC-

**HABS No. CA-2398-BC**

**Location:** Hamilton Army Air Field  
Novato, Marin County, California  
Frame Building Type C  
Infirmary, Ward Building (Facility Nos. 510, 511), Day Room, Medical Dispensary, Clinic, and Temporary Storehouse (Facility Nos. 512, 520, 521, and 525) (all are located on Hospital Drive between Escolta Avenue and North Oakwood Drive)

U.S.G.S.: Novato, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1954 (revised 1980)  
Petaluma Point, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1959 (revised 1980)  
UTM Coordinates: Zone 10; A: 542100/4213620; B: 544720/4212220;  
C: 542760/4210650; D: 541040/4212600

**Significance:**

This group of six frame buildings served as medical facilities adjacent to the base hospital during World War II. After the war, they were adapted for use as treatment and rehabilitation units for wounded evacuees or outpatient dental and physician clinics. They are considered significant for their association with Air Force history in northern California and with World War II actions in the Pacific Theater.

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-239B) for a comprehensive Statement of Significance and individual report HABS No. CA-239B-A for a condensed Statement of Significance.

**Description:**

These six temporary buildings are all one- and two-story frame structures built in the first years of World War II. They are located on both sides of the oval driveway leading up the hill to the base hospital, with the rear portions two stories high on the hill side. They have low-pitched gable roofs with exposed rafters and composition shingles. Metal ventilators are present along the ridgeline. The original one-inch drop siding is now covered with asbestos shingles. Fenestration consists of eight- over eight-light double hung wood sash, while doors are solid core wood with four-lights over three or five recessed panels. The foundations are wood post on concrete pier, with wood lath concealing the posts on the lower portions of the buildings.

Interior walls consist of plasterboard with wooden trim, while floors are tongue and groove wood covered with eight-inch-square vinyl asphalt tiles. The interiors are divided into

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reception rooms, offices, and examining rooms. Most of these temporary buildings remain in original condition and several are maintained by the Navy and Coast Guard as dental and out patient clinics.

**Historical Context:**

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS NO. CA-2398) and Section B in report HABS No. CA-2398-F.

The medical facilities were completed on December 31, 1941, soon after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and were hastily constructed to serve as wards for incoming wounded. Costs averaged \$5,500.00. Four were intended for use as patient wards. Facility No. 525 was a medical supply storehouse and x-ray storage and processing area.

**Sources:**

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) and Section B in report HABS No. CA-2398-F.

See the following project Field Record work:

Facility No. 510, Infirmary: roll 81, exposures 5-6; roll 83, exposures 1-2

Facility No. 511, Ward Building: roll 81, exposures 7-8, 11-12; roll 83, exposures 5-8, 11-12

Facility No. 512, Day Room: roll 83, exposures 9-10; roll 84, exposures 1-2

Facility No. 520, Medical Dispensary: roll 82, exposures 5-8; roll 86, exposures 11-12

Facility No. 521, Clinic: roll 82, exposures 1-4; roll 83, exposures 3-4

Facility No. 525, Temporary AC Storehouse: roll 80, exposures 9-12; roll 81, exposures 1-2

The line drawn sketches were drafted on site in 1994 by Keith Syda, scanned into a computer and drawn by Christopher MacDonald in 1995, and corrected and finalized by Claire Warshaw in 1996 (all PAR Environmental Services, Inc. staff).

**Project Information:**

Hamilton Army Air Field is owned by various federal entities including the Department of the Navy, Department of the Army, United States Coast Guard, and General Services Administration (GSA). The Army/GSA parcels are being excessed and sold to private developers. The Navy property is included in Base Closure and Realignment actions.

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As part of the Army's undertaking, it has been determined in consultation with the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) that the excess sale will have an affect on properties at the air field, end that these properties are components of a district that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Based on consultation with the OHP and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, pursuant to 36 CFR part 800, regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f), a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was entered into by the interested parties in March 1994. The agreement stipulated that prior to excess sale the Army must contact the HABS/HAER division at the Western Regional Office of the National Park Service, San Francisco, California, to determine the appropriate level and kind of recordation for the subject properties. The MOA further stipulated that copies of the documentation be made available to the OHP and appropriate local archives designated by the OHP. This recordation has been prepared in order to meet those stipulations.

Text prepared by: Mary L. Maniery/Judith Marvin

Title: Historian/Architectural Historian

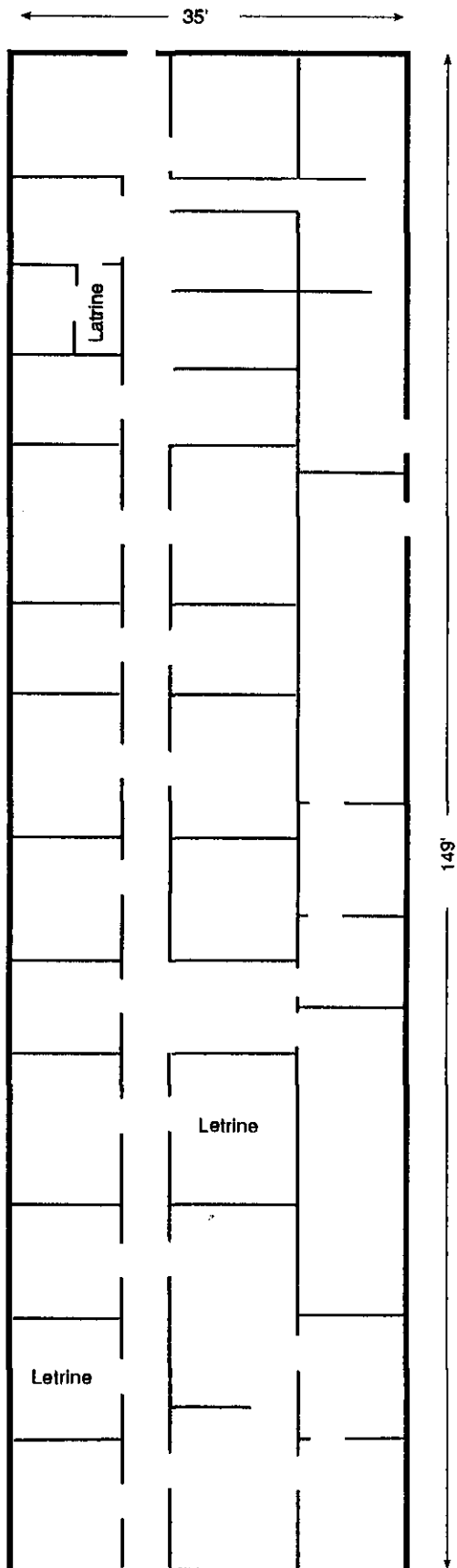
Affiliation: PAR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC., Sacramento, California

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Photography prepered by: David De Vries

Affilietion: Mesa Technical, Berkeley, California

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NOTE: Unlebeled rooms used as offices  
and examination facilities for  
out-patient care